

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 118  
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jennifer Baker upon her selection as Teacher of the Year at West Elementary School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Baker is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Baker has recently been selected as Teacher of the Year by her colleagues at West Elementary School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on countless young lives; and

WHEREAS, being selected as Teacher of the Year at the school level is the first step in the competition for regional, state, and national honors; Ms. Baker will compete against other school-level winners from Hamblen County in order to advance to the district competition; and

WHEREAS, serving with acumen and alacrity as a kindergarten teacher at West Elementary, Jennifer Baker has a prestigious educational background that includes a Master of Science degree in Elementary Education and Bachelor of Art degrees in Italian and Psychology from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, always striving to hone her instruction skills and diversify her learning, Ms. Jennifer Baker has an endorsement in ELL and has tutored ELL students in the Adult Education program, translated from Italian to English, and volunteered at Rose Center's International Festival; and

WHEREAS, before joining the West Elementary staff in 2000, Ms. Baker taught at Russellville and Manley; and

WHEREAS, this dedicated professional has served on the Elementary School Mathematics Textbook Selection Committee and the Kindergarten Grade Card Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, at West Elementary School, Ms. Baker presented "Writing Instruction for Young Children" and serves on the Yearbook Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Baker is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Baker truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; she also serves the next generation of educators as a resident teacher for student teachers from Carson-Newman College, Walter State Community College, and East High practicum students and as a new teacher mentor; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated and active member of her community, Jennifer Baker is a member of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution and actively supports United Way, Central Services, Toys for Tots, Angel Tree, and the Morristown Senior Living Community; and

WHEREAS, truly epitomizing the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, Jennifer Baker should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Ms. Jennifer Baker on being chosen as West Elementary School's Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.